Tax free bonds

2090. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 52 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether a final decision to issue tax free bonds for holds of US-64 units of UTI has been taken and whether any special provision for senior citizens to allow them higher rate of interest on these bonds has been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The terms and conditions of the proposed bonds are being finalised.

Policy on FDI from China

2091. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to put on hold the FCI proposals of Chinese nationals and companies till a comprehensive policy on FDI from China is drawn up;

(b) if so, whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has drawn up a comprehensive policy on FDI from China;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the activities of such companies which have already started business in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) As per present policy, no country specific restrictions are applicable to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from People's Republic of China.

(e) Top sectors attracting FDI from People's Republic of China are Telecommunication, Metallurgical Industries, Commercial Office and Household Equipment, Transportation Industries and Electrical Equipment (including Computer Software and Electronics).

Core group for export sector

2092. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in bid to give a much-needed boost to the export sector the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has announced the setting up of a core group to interact with exporters to sort out micro-level issues;

(b) if so, what are the core issues that will be undertaken by this proposed groups;

(c) whether any report or points have been prepared which needed Ministry's approval; and

(d) if so, to what extent the setting up of the core group has given boost to the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade & Infrastructure) and comprising representatives of Banking, Revenue and Directorate General of Foreign Trade has been constituted to sort out the procedural problems being faced by exporters pertaining to Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs. President Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) is a permanent invitee to the meetings of the Task Force.

(c) and (d) The Task Force, since its inception in July 2002, has resolved number of issues brought before it by FIEO and has contributed towards simplification/streamlining of procedures relating to exports and cutting down transaction costs.